

PROCEEDINGS
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ANOTHER NEW SUBSPECIES OF *NANNUS TROGLODYTES*
FROM ALASKA.

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During a trip to Alaska in the summer of 1925, Mr. Donald H. Stevenson and Mr. O. J. Murie visited islands off the coast of the southwestern end of the Alaska Peninsula. On two small islands,—Amak Island on the Bering Sea side of the Peninsula, and Amagat Island on the Pacific Ocean side near the mouth of Morzhovoi Bay,—these two collectors obtained a series of the breeding form of *Nannus troglodytes*, which proves to be sufficiently distinct from birds inhabiting the other parts of Alaska to be worthy a name of its own. It seems fitting to name this new race for Donald H. Stevenson, as a slight recognition of his field services to ornithology, and this the more since his untimely death during the following year suddenly terminated a promising career.

***Nannus troglodytes stevensoni*, subsp. nov.**

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Nannus troglodytes petrophilus*, from Unalaska Island, Alaska, but upper parts, and to a less extent, also the lower surface, more grayish or sooty (less rufescent) in both adult and juvenal plumages; posterior lower parts in adult on the average less heavily spotted with fuscous; bill and middle toe averaging slightly longer.

Measurements (four adult males).—Wing, 51 to 53 (average 52.2); tail, 31 to 32.2 (average 31.8); exposed culmen, 14.5 to 15.5 (average 15); tarsus, 17.8 to 19 (average 18.6); middle toe without claw, 13 to 14.8 (average 14.2).

Type.—Adult male, No. 298574 U. S. Nat. Mus., Biological Survey Collection; Amak Island, Alaska; July 16, 1925; D. H. Stevenson; original number 141.

Geographic distribution.—Amak Island and Amagat Island, Alaska; and probably also other neighboring islands and the southwestern end of the Alaska Peninsula.

As in most of the other Alaska races of this species there is considerable

individual variation in this new form; and the differences, while very readily recognizable in a series, are, of course, to some extent overlapped by individuals of the most closely related subspecies, *Nannus troglodytes petrophilus*. It is interesting, however, to note that the color differences are fully as noticeable in the juvenal plumage as in the adult, as is well shown by the series of ten young and five adults from Amak and Amagat Islands that has been examined.

All the wrens of this genus found in North America are now regarded as only subspecifically related. There is, furthermore, not a trenchant character of size or color to separate them as a group from the common wren of Europe, to which all the other Old World forms of the genus are but subspecifically related. Since such a condition is commonly recognized as a criterion of subspecific relationship, there seems to be good reason for treating all the North American birds as subspecies of *Nannus troglodytes*. The details of intergradation have already been presented in the writer's recent paper on the genus (*cf.* Proceedings of the United States National Museum, LV, April 28, 1919, pp. 224-225).